



PLYMOUTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

REPORT OF THE PORT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1956

GENERAL

This report is in the form and sequence prescribed for Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Port Health Authorities by the Ministry of Health, Form Port 20, dated October, 1952.

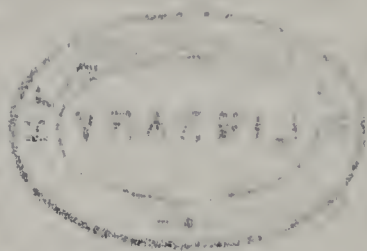
Where the entry "NO CHANGE" appears, this indicates that there has been no alteration in the information given in detail in the Report for 1955.

The tonnage of vessels which entered the port during the year was 2,616,853, as compared with 2,486,498 in 1955.

SECTION I - STAFF

TABLE A.

NO CHANGE.





SECTION II - AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT  
DURING THE YEAR.

TABLE B.

Ships from	Number.	Tonnage.	Number inspected		Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Public Health Inspector.	
Foreign Ports	739	1,943,043	149	498	13
Coastwise	1081	673,810	-	723	-
Total	1820	2,616,853	149	1221	13

SECTION III - CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR.

TABLE C.

Number of passengers INWARDS - 21,200

Passenger Traffic

Number of passengers OUTWARDS - 4,256

The total number of passengers remaining on board passenger carrying vessels entering the Port of Plymouth (exclusive of those shown above) was 40,400.

Cargo Traffic.      Principal IMPORTS

Foreign :

Fertilisers from Antwerp and Hamburg.  
Phosphates from Sfax, Bona, Antwerp and Rouen.  
Potash from Hamburg, Antwerp and Bremen.  
Basic slag from Rouen and Dunkirk.  
Onions from Roscoff and Rotterdam.  
Fresh fruit from Holland and France.  
Preserved meat from Holland.  
Potatoes from Treguier.

# THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

1900

NAME		ADDRESS		CITY	
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
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49	50	51	52	53	54
55	56	57	58	59	60
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67	68	69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76	77	78
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265	266	267	268	269	270
271	272	273	274	275	276
277	278	279	280	281	282
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445	446	447	448	449	450
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457	458	459	460	461	462
463	464	465	466	467	468
469	470	471	472	473	474
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487	488	489	490	491	492
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499	500	501	502	503	504
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517	518	519	520	521	522
523	524	525	526	527	528
529	530	531	532	533	534
535	536	537	538	539	540
541	542	543	544	545	546
547	548	549	550	551	552
553	554	555	556	557	558
559	560	561	562	563	564
565	566	567	568	569	570
571	572	573	574	575	576
577	578	579	580	581	582
583	584	585	586	587	588
589	590	591	592	593	594
595	596	597	598	599	600
601	602	603	604	605	606
607	608	609	610	611	612
613	614	615	616	617	618
619	620	621	622	623	624
625	626	627	628	629	630
631	632	633	634	635	636
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655	656	657	658	659	660
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667	668	669	670	671	672
673	674	675	676	677	678
679	680	681	682	683	684
685	686	687	688	689	690
691	692	693	694	695	696
697	698	699	700	701	702
703	704	705	706	707	708
709	710	711	712	713	714
715	716	717	718	719	720
721	722	723	724	725	726
727	728	729	730	731	732
733	734	735	736	737	738
739	740	741	742	743	744
745	746	747	748	749	750
751	752	753	754	755	756
757	758	759	760	761	762
763	764	765	766	767	768
769	770	771	772	773	774
775	776	777	778	779	780
781	782	783	784	785	786
787	788	789	790	791	792
793	794	795	796	797	798
799	800	801	802	803	804
805	806	807	808	809	810
811	812	813	814	815	816
817	818	819	820	821	822
823	824	825	826	827	828
829	830	831	832	833	834
835	836	837	838	839	840
841	842	843	844	845	846
847	848	849	850	851	852
853	854	855	856	857	858
859	860	861	862	863	864
865	866	867	868	869	870
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919	920	921	922	923	924
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943	944	945	946	947	948
949	950	951	952	953	954
955	956	957	958	959	960
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967	968	969	970	971	972
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979	980	981	982	983	984
985	986	987	988	989	990
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997	998	999	1000	1001	1002
1003	1004	1005	1006	1007	1008
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1165	1166	1167	1168	1169	1170
1171	1172	1173	1174	1175	1176
1177	1178	1179	1180	1181	1182
1183	1184	1185	1186	1187	1188
1189	1190	1191	1192	1193	1194
1195	1196	1197	1198	1199	1200
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1213	1214	1215	1216	1217	1218
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1303	1304	1305	1306	1307	1308
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1363	1364	1365	1366	1367	1368
1369	1370	1371	1372	1373	1374
1375	1376	1377			



General foodstuffs from Holland.  
 Timber from Vancouver, Gothenburg, Kotka and Kemi.  
 Grain from Vancouver, Antwerp and Rouen.  
 Oyster shells from Frederikssund.  
 Fuel oil from Curacao and Trinidad.  
 Coal from Rouen, Dunkirk and Rotterdam.

#### Coastal :

Basic slag from Grimsby.  
 Coal from South Wales and North-East Ports.  
 Vaporising oil, gas oil, Petrol, Kerosine and  
 Paraffin from Fawley, Hamble and Swansea.  
 Motor oil and Fuel oil from Hamble, Avonmouth,  
 Thameshaven and Fawley.  
 Fertilisers and Phosphates from Middlesbrough,  
 London and Immingham.  
 Cement and Asphalt from London.  
 Grain from Avonmouth, Newport (I.O.W.) and Cardiff.  
 Potatoes from Belfast, Londonderry, Kilkeel and  
 Dundrum.  
 Fish from deep sea fishing grounds.  
 Margarine, cooking fats, syrup, tinned fruit, flour,  
 biscuits, tinned vegetables, sugar and cheese from  
 Liverpool.

#### Principal EXPORTS :

China clay and Granite chippings.

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#### Principal Ports from which ships arrive :

<u>Asia and Australasia.</u>	<u>Europe.</u>	<u>America.</u>	<u>Africa.</u>
Hong Kong	Amsterdam	Buenos Aires.	Beira
Rangoon	Antwerp	Curacao	Cape Town
Wellington (N.Z.)	Bayonne	Kingston (Ja.)	Casablanca
Brisbane	Bergen	New York	Sfax
Abadan	Bremen	Philadelphia	Takoradi
Bombay	Brest	Valparaiso	
	Calais		
	Delfzyl		
	Gibraltar		
	Gothenburg		
	Kotka		
	Kiel		
	Le Havre		
	Rotterdam		
	Rouen		
	St. Malo		
	Gdansk		

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SECTION IV - INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC.

There is no inland barge traffic at the Port.

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SECTION V - WATER SUPPLY.

NO CHANGE.

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SECTION VI - PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952.

Paragraph (1) A list of seaports and airports in which a confirmed or suspected quarantinable disease has occurred, is supplied weekly by the World Health Organisation, Geneva. Copies are typed and sent to the Chief Pilot, H.M. Customs, and to all the boarding Medical Officers.

Paragraphs (2) (3) (4) and (5) - NO CHANGE.

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SECTION VII - SMALLPOX.

(1) Isolation Hospitals available.

The first case or cases would be admitted to the Smallpox Hospital, Liskeard, Cornwall (Telephone : Liskeard 2385) staffed from the Scott Isolation Hospital, Beacon Park Road, Plymouth, (Telephone Plymouth 64311 and 61437. Physician-Superintendent : Dr.D.F.Johnstone)

Should it appear likely that more extensive accommodation would be required, arrangements would be made for the Lee Mill Smallpox Hospital, at present used for convalescent orthopaedic cases, to be re-opened as a Smallpox Hospital.

(2) Arrangements for the transport of cases to hospital.

The launch "ARGUS" of the Plymouth Port Health Authority based at Millbay Docks, Plymouth, (Telephone : Plymouth 62821, Ext.245 by day, and Plymouth 61441 at night and week-ends) is available to transport cases from ship to shore. Ambulances of the Plymouth City Council's Ambulance Service (Telephone : Plymouth 64101) are available to transport cases to hospital.

The crew were re-vaccinated in March, 1956.

(3) Smallpox Consultants.

Plymouth and Cornwall : Dr. D.F. Johnstone, Scott Isolation Hospital, Beacon Park Road, Plymouth.  
Telephone : Plymouth 64311, 61437  
and 63358.





Devon and Cornwall : Dr. W. A. Lister, 7, The Crescent,  
Plymouth. Telephone : Plymouth 65701  
and Devonport 40.

Devon and Cornwall : Dr. C. Seward, 20, West Southernhay,  
Exeter. Telephone : Exeter 2110 and  
Exmouth 4120.

(4) Facilities for the Laboratory Diagnosis of Smallpox.

Materials for the collection of specimens from suspected cases are always available at the Port Health Office, Plymouth. Specimens would be forwarded to the Virus Reference Laboratory, Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, London, N. W. 9.

SECTION VIII - VENEREAL DISEASE.

Location of facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease, and days and hours of attendance.

NO CHANGE.

During the year, 53 British and 22 Foreign seamen (Total 75) were treated at the Venereal Diseases Clinic.

The Nationalities were as follows:-

British.....	53	Danish.....	1
South African.	8	Finnish.....	1
Dutch.....	4	German.....	1
Spanish.....	3	Moslem.....	1
Latvian.....	2	Swedish.....	1

SECTION IX - CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES, ON SHIPS.

TABLE D.

Category.	Disease.	Number of cases during the year.		Number of ships concerned.
		Passengers.	Crew.	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports.	Mumps	2	-	2
	Pneumonia	-	1	1
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival.	Chicken-pox	5	1	5
	Measles	1	-	1
	Pneumonia	1	1	2
	Para-typhoid	-	1	1
	Tuberculosis	1	-	1
Cases landed from other ships	-	-	-	-





SECTION X - OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS.

There were no cases of malaria brought to notice in ships arriving at Plymouth during the year.

SECTION XI - MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE.

No plague infected or suspected ships entered the Port during the year.

SECTION XII - MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

(1) All ships arriving at the various wharves are boarded by the Port Health Inspector and Rodent Operator. Enquiries are made of the officers and crew as to evidence of rat infestation. Foremen Stevedores are also questioned as to the presence of rats. Where rat infestation is found, trapping or poisoning is carried out by the Rodent Operator.

(2) All rats caught are destroyed, and specimens submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank, Plymouth.

(3) Deratting of ships is carried out by fumigation with hydro-cyanic acid gas. These fumigations are carried out by private firms under the supervision of the Port Health Authority. The names of Commercial Contractors who have carried out the fumigation of vessels at this Port are :-

1. Fumigation Services Ltd., Barking, Essex.
2. London Fumigation Co., London, E.C.3.
- 3.

Small infestations are dealt with by the Local Authority's Rodent Operator, using "Warfarin".

It is pleasing to note that rat-proofing principals have been adopted in the construction of new vessels.

TABLE E.

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

NIL.

Rodents destroyed in docks, quays, wharves and warehouses.

<u>Category.</u>	<u>Number.</u>
Black rats .. .. .	35
Brown rats .. .. .	215
Sent for examination ..	-
Infected with Plague ..	-
Number of mice destroyed by poisoning ..	120





TABLE F.

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

Number of Deratting Certificates issued		After trapping	After poisoning	Total	Number of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued.	Total certificates issued.
HCN	Other fumigant (state method)					
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
-	-	-	-	-	34	34

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. (Application to Shipping) Order, 1951.

No Rodent Control Certificates were issued to coastal vessels during the year.

The majority of vessels entering the port, carried a Deratting Exemption Certificate.

SECTION XIII - INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES.

TABLE C.

Inspections and Notices.

Nature and number of Inspections.	Notices served		Result of serving Notices.
	Statutory Notices.	Other Notices.	Complied with.
1221 vessels	-	12	10

SECTION XIV - PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL-FISH) REGULATIONS, 1934 & 1948.

NO CHANGE.





SECTION XV - MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS.

Paragraphs (1) (2) and (3) - NO CHANGE.

Paragraph (4) - During the year, the number of incoming aliens was 8,286. The number of outgoing aliens was 781.

Paragraph (5) - NO CHANGE.

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SECTION XVI - MISCELLANEOUS.

Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

NO CHANGE.

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INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

No major infectious disease occurred within the area of the Authority during 1956.

Cases landed at the Port :

1. 26th February. The master of the dutch vessel "JAN DE VRIES" was landed, suffering from pneumonia, and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank, Plymouth.
2. 14th March. One Jamaican passenger, suffering from mumps, was landed from the S.S. "COLOMBIE", and admitted to the Scott Isolation Hospital, Beacon Park Road, Plymouth.
3. 27th June. One American passenger, suffering from mumps, was landed from the S.S. "LIBERTE", and admitted to the Scott Isolation Hospital, Beacon Park Road, Plymouth.

Cases of non-infectious disease were dealt with as follows:-

1. 21st. February. One of the crew of the Norwegian vessel "VENUS" was landed, suffering from heart disease, and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Freedom Fields, Plymouth.
2. 21st February. One of the crew of the Dutch vessel, "PRINS WILLEM VAN ORANJE" was landed, suffering from an injured thumb, and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Freedom Fields, Plymouth.
3. 11th March. One of the crew of the Dutch vessel, "GOOTE" was landed, suffering from a dental abscess, and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Freedom Fields, Plymouth.
4. 9th April. One of the crew of the British vessel "RECORDER" was landed, suffering from acute intestinal obstruction, and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Devonport.





5. 12th April. One American passenger, suffering from gastritis, was landed from the S.S. "LIBERTE", and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Freedom Fields, Plymouth.
6. 30th April. The master of the British vessel "BALSA" was landed, suffering from heart disease, and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank, Plymouth.
7. 26th May. One American passenger, suffering from concussion, of the brain, was landed from the S.S. "ITALIA", and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Freedom Fields, Plymouth.
8. 13th June. The master of the American vessel "AMERICAN JURIST" was landed, suffering from asthma and cardiac insufficiency, and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Freedom Fields, Plymouth.
9. 16th June. One of the crew of the Colombian vessel "GUIDAD DE CUCUTA", was landed, suffering from appendicitis, and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank, Plymouth.
10. 17th June. One of the crew of the Dutch vessel "THEANO" was landed, suffering from a stroke, and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank, Plymouth.
11. 10th August. One American passenger, suffering from Arterio-sclerosis, was landed from the S.S. "LIBERTE", and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank, Plymouth.
12. 12th August. One of the crew of the Swedish vessel "GRACULUS" was landed, suffering from acute appendicitis, and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank, Plymouth.
13. 14th September. One British passenger, suffering from abscess of the stomach, was landed from the S.S. "COLOMBIE", and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank, Plymouth.
14. 26th September. One British passenger, suffering from acute tonsillitis, was landed from the S.S. "ANTILLES", and proceeded by car to his home address in Henley.
15. 4th October. One British passenger, suffering from heart disease, was landed from the "CITY OF DURBAN", and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank, Plymouth.
16. 4th October. One of the crew of the French fishing vessel, "PRETAINE" was landed, suffering from a tonsil abscess, and admitted to the Scott Isolation Hospital, Beacon Park Road, Plymouth.
17. 8th October. One of the crew of the Norwegian vessel "HASSEL" was landed, suffering from a perforated appendix and peritonitis and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Freedom Fields, Plymouth.
18. 9th October. One of the crew of the Norwegian vessel "LANCELOT" was landed, suffering from haematemesis, and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank, Plymouth.
19. 26th November. One British passenger, suffering from Cerebral Haemorrhage, was landed from the S.S. "IRPINIA" and proceeded by car to Bournemouth.





## FOOD INSPECTION.

During the year 309 vessels were dealt with under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937 and 1948.

There were 168 from foreign ports, and 141 coastwise.

The total amount of foodstuffs voluntarily surrendered and condemned as unsound, unwholesome and unfit for human consumption consisted of :-

81 tins of apples .. .. .	4 cwt	2 qrs	22 lbs.
17 cartons of cheese .. .. .	1 cwt	3 qrs	8 lbs.
20 tins of tomato puree .. .. .		3 qrs	16 lbs.
<hr/>			
Total ..	7 cwt.	1 qr.	18 lbs.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc, in Food) Regulations, 1925-1948.

The following specimens were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Greenbank, Plymouth, for examination :-

Nature of Specimen.	From.	Examined for.	Result.
Oysters	Mr. Kingcome, Yealm Oyster Fisheries.	B. Coli	No faecal coli isolated.
Drinking water	Water boat "ENA"	B. Coli	B. Coli - 8 per 100 ml. No faecal coli per 100 ml.

